



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AUSTIN'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

Mailing Date: October 11, 2019

Case Number: C20-2018-001

A public hearing will be held to consider a proposed amendment to Austin's Land Development Code.

Proposed Amendment:

The proposed ordinance amends Chapters 25-2, 25-7, 25-8, 25-12, 30-4, and 30-5 relating to regulation of development within the 25-year and 100-year floodplains.

Our understanding of flood risk in the City of Austin has changed. Based on a federal rainfall intensity study by the National Weather Service known as Atlas 14, portions of Texas, including the City of Austin, are more likely to receive severe rainfall events.

This has important implications to Austin residents, public and private infrastructure, and development citywide. More buildings, homes, and roadways in Austin are now known to be at risk of flooding. Flood insurance for some Austin residents may be required or be more expensive after federal floodplain maps are updated in three to four years. Certain City infrastructure such as roadways and wastewater treatment plants is now at more risk of flooding than previously thought.

In response to this new understanding of flood risk, the Watershed Protection Department proposes amendments to the Land Development Code. The intent of these code amendments is to reduce the impact of flooding on Austin residents. There are four main components of the proposed amendments:

- 1) Revise the definition of the 100-year floodplain to the current 500-year floodplain and the 25-year floodplain to the current 100-year floodplain to more accurately reflect our new understanding of flood risk;
- 2) Create a new exception for residential redevelopment that will allow certain redevelopment that reduces flood risk to be approved administratively. Currently, this often requires approval by the Austin City Council;
- 3) Expand an exception that allows for a building to encroach on the 100-year floodplain of the Colorado River downstream of Longhorn Dam and along Lady Bird Lake to also include Lake Austin and parts of Lake Travis; and
- 4) Increase the height that new or redeveloped buildings are required to be above the 100-year floodplain from 1 foot to 2 feet.

The City of Austin is coordinating with Travis County to incorporate these amendments within Title 30 of the Land Development Code.

Please see the Atlas 14 website for more information at: www.austintexas.gov/Atlas14.

The Planning Commission will consider this amendment on October 22, 2019 at 301 West 2nd Street, beginning at 6:00pm. Comments on this proposed ordinance from any member of the public will be heard during the public hearing.

The **City Council** will consider this amendment on **November 14, 2019** at 301 West 2nd Street. Comments on this proposed ordinance from any member of the public will be heard during the public hearing.

If you desire additional information on this proposed ordinance, please contact Kevin Shunk of the Watershed Protection Department at 512-974-9176 and refer to the Case Number at the top right of this notice.